

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated May 3, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 3, under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as allegedly being indefinite; rejected claims 1-3 and 17-18, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Takanobu '602 (JP 2002-010602); rejected claims 1, 5 and 16-18, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Naoyuki '122 (JP 2002-233122); rejected claims 5 and 16, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Takanobu '602 in view of Eiji '142 (JP 2000-166142); and rejected claims 6-7 and 19, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Takanobu '602 in view of Kim '547 (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,547).

The Examiner also indicated that claims 4 and 8-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, claims 1-8 have been amended to provide a clearer presentation of the claimed subject matter and claims 9-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced. Applicants have also amended the Specification and Abstract to correct various informalities contained therein.

With regard to the claim changes, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 now includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 13; amended claim 2 now includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 14; amended claim 3 now includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 9; and amended claim 7 now includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 4.

Moreover, amended claim 4 now depends from amended claim 3 and includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 10; amended claim 5 now depends from amended claim 3 and includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 11; amended claim 6 now depends from amended claim 3 and includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 12; and amended claim 8 now depends from amended claim 7 and includes the patentable subject matter of original claim 4.

Based on these amendments and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that claims 1-8, as amended, are patentable over the asserted references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the immediate withdrawal of the prior art rejections of claims 1-8.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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